

Corporate Watch

PRESS RELEASE

Corporate Watch
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPORATIONS BEWARE! CORPORATE WATCH PRESENTS THE CORPORATE CRIME AWARDS

January 29, 2007 Oxford

Corporate Watch[1], the UK's leading anti-corporate research group, is celebrating its tenth anniversary by hosting the 'Corporate Crime Awards'[2]. The awards will be a part of the tenth anniversary celebrations that will be held on Friday February 2nd, at the Escape Club[3] in Oxford. Journalists are cordially invited to attend and partake in our free buffet and refreshments.

After ten years of raking over their muck and digging through their dirt we wanted to give special recognition to a select few of the corporations which have given Corporate Watch its raison d'être. The Corporate Crime Awards Ceremony, will be compered by Steve Larkin[4], the International Slam Poetry Champion 2004. Corporate Watch will present the awards to ten companies which have displayed notably heinous, misguided and altogether antisocial behavior over the last ten years. The winners were chosen more to illustrate the variety of corporate amorality than to attempt to identify the ten very worst corporations of the last decade. The Winners are, in no particular order: Fox News, GlaxoSmithKline, Tesco, BP, BNFL, BAe Systems, Rio Tinto, Monsanto, The Rendon Group and National Irish Bank. All of the winners have been notified, and asked to come and accept their awards.

Other celebratory activities on February 2nd at Escape will include: a panel debate on Corporate Social Responsibility, debating the motion 'Can Corporations Really Be Socially Responsible?'; the launch of CW's new poetry book 'This Poem Is Sponsored By...', with selected readings by featured poets; and the evenings scheduled activities will wrap up with a performance by American protest singer, David Rovics[5].

Author **George Monbiot** writes:

"Corporate Watch is one of the most effective and least-resourced campaigning groups in the United Kingdom. I am constantly impressed by the quality of their research and the accessibility of their reports. They deserve a lot more attention..."

Political editor **Robert Verkaik** of *The Independent*, says:

"Without organisations like Corporate Watch it would be impossible to hold British businesses accountable for their activities in countries like Iraq and other countries around the world."

END

Notes to Editors

- 1 - Corporate Watch is a workers' cooperative researching and reporting the detrimental impacts that corporations have on society and the environment. For more information on Corporate Watch visit www.corporatewatch.org
- 2 - Corporate Crime Award's can be found in detail in the 10th anniversary newsletter enclosed.
- 3 - Escape Club is located at 9a High Street (Market Avenue 1), Oxford, OX1 4DB.
01865 246 766. www.escape-oxford.co.uk
- 4 - Steve Larkin, poet/performer/comper and 2004 International Slam Champion, www.stevelarkin.com
- 5 - David Rovics, singer/songwriter www.davidrovics.com

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anti-corporate Poetry Anthology Launched to Celebrate Corporate Watch's 10th Anniversary

January 29, 2007 Oxford

Corporate Watch[1], the radical anti corporate research and publishing group, has published its first collection of poetry, in celebration of its 10th anniversary.

The collection, *This Poem is Sponsored By...: Poems in the Face of Corporate Power*[2], features over 60 poets including Adrian Mitchell, Mario Petrucci, Heather Taylor, Aoife Mannix, Attila the Stockbroker and Todd Swift.

With bold passion and bare faced cheek, the poems in the collection confront the advertising industry, the media, supermarkets, banks, oil companies, consumerism, and the work ethic, and play with visions of what the world could be like if we can see beyond the mall. The collection brings together so many strong voices it feels like a declaration from a strident and colourful movement.

Editor of the collection, Claire Fauset[3], said:

'Poetry alone can't change the world. But we can, and this book gives us a hefty kick up the arse.'

The collection comes with an audio CD featuring performances of 19 poems 'as never before seen on TV!'

Author and journalist **George Monbiot** said of the collection:

'I love these dark, subversive, thrilling, transgressional poems. Sometimes you need a poem to show you what you were seeing but not noticing. It's a brilliant collection.'

The collection will be launched at Corporate Watch's 10th Anniversary celebrations held on 2nd February 2007 at Escape nightclub, Oxford, UK.

The collection is available at a special reduced price of £7 including post and packaging from Corporate Watch www.corporatewatch.org

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1 – Corporate Watch is a workers' cooperative researching and reporting the detrimental impacts that corporations have on society and the environment. For more information on Corporate Watch visit www.corporatewatch.org

2 - Review copies of 'This Poem is Sponsored By.' are available. Contact: Corporate Watch, 16b Cherwell Street, Oxford, OX4 1BG, 01865 791391, claire@corporatewatch.org

3 - Claire Fauset is author of Corporate Watch's 2006 report 'What's Wrong with Corporate Social Responsibility?'

Corporate Watch

The Programme

6pm Arrivals

Bars open

CW publications and teeshirts for sale (Club room/VIP area)

6.30pm Panel Debate 'Can Corporations be Socially Responsible?' with speakers from Greenpeace, the CORE Coalition, WWF, Corporate Watch, etc (Restaurant)

7.45pm Interval help yourself to the vegetarian buffet, buy drinks at the two bars, browse our stalls, meet and network with other anti-corporate campaigners

8.15pm Presentation of the Top 10 Corporate Crimes Awards with compere Steve Larkin (Dancefloor area)

8.35pm Launch of Corporate Watch's new poetry book 'This poem is sponsored by...' with performances by some of the contributing poets (Dancefloor area)

9.15 pm American singer songwriter David Rovics performs live (dancefloor area)

10.15pm DJ, bars and dancing until 3am (dancefloor area)

*The Earth is not dying, it is being killed,
and the people killing it have names
and addresses." - Utah Phillips*